

Agenda Item 4A: Delta Counties and Cities

1. The Legislature has acknowledged that the statutory Delta is “inherently a flood prone area wherein the most appropriate uses are agriculture, wildlife habitat, and . . . recreational activities,” [PRC 29704]. The Legislature has also directed that the Delta Plan “shall attempt to reduce risks to people, property, and state interests in the Delta by promoting effective emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses, and strategic levee investments.” [WC 85305]

- What are the interests of your county or city regarding flood risk and land use in the Primary Zone and/or Secondary Zone of the Delta?
- For purposes of reducing Delta flood risk, how are county and city interests similar, and how do they differ?
- What are your priorities in considering how to balance flood plain protection with pressures for development in the Secondary Zone?

2. The Second Staff Draft Delta Plan, in Chapter 7, contains proposed policies designed to reduce flood risk in the Delta [RR P1-P6], along with proposed recommendations [RR R1-R7]. For each proposed policy or recommendation that you view as a priority, please respond to the following questions:

1. How well do the policies and recommendations identified in the Second Staff Draft address your key interests?
2. Are there different approaches or policies available to the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
3. In general terms, what would be the cost of your alternative approach or policy, and who would pay?

3. The Second Staff Draft Delta Plan, in Chapter 5, contains proposed policies [ER P1-P6] and recommendations [RR R1-R5] designed to meet the coequal goal of “protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.” For each proposed policy or recommendation that you view as a priority, please respond to the following questions:

1. How well do the policies and recommendations identified in the Second Staff Draft address your key interests?
2. Are there different approaches or policies available to the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
3. In general terms, what would be the cost of your alternative approach or policy, and who would pay?

4. The Second Staff Draft Delta Plan, in Chapter 8, addresses the Legislature's direction to achieve the coequal goals "in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resources, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place." [29702(a)]

1. How well do the policies and recommendations identified in the Second Staff Draft address your key interests?
2. Are there different approaches or policies available to the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
3. In general terms, what would be the cost of your alternative approach or policy, and who would pay?

Agenda Item 4B: Protecting, Restoring, and Enhancing the Delta Ecosystem

1. The Second Staff Draft of the Delta Plan, in Chapter 5, proposes a policy under which Covered Actions with ecosystem implications would be required to demonstrate that impacts on the potential for ecosystem restoration have been fully considered and avoided or minimized in a way that appropriately protects the ecosystem. [ER P1]

For purposes of today's workshop only, assume that the Council is inclined toward adopting this policy as part of its process for making determinations of consistency with the Delta Plan within the statutory Delta.

1. What recommendations do you have for improving the proposed policy?
2. Is there a different approach or policy available to the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
3. Why is your approach or policy a better way for the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
4. In general terms, what would be the cost of your alternative approach or policy, and who would pay?

2. The Second Staff Draft of the Delta Plan, in Chapter 5, proposes a policy under which Floodplains critical to support the sustainability of fish species using the Delta would be protected and conversion of active or currently disconnected floodplains to uses that preclude ecosystem restoration would be prevented. [ER P3]

For purposes of today's workshop only, assume that the Council is inclined toward adopting this policy as part of its process for making determinations of consistency with the Delta Plan within the statutory Delta.

1. What recommendations do you have for improving the proposed policy?
2. Is there a different approach or policy available to the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
3. Why is your approach or policy a better way for the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
4. In general terms, what would be the cost of your alternative approach or policy, and who would pay?

3. The Second Staff Draft of the Delta Plan, in Chapter 5, proposes a policy under which State and local agencies constructing new levees, or substantially rehabilitating or reconstructing existing levees, would be required to evaluate and incorporate, where feasible, alternatives (including use of setback levees) that would increase the extent of active floodplain and riparian habitats. [ER P4]

For purposes of today's workshop only, assume that the Council is inclined toward adopting this policy as part of its process for making determinations of consistency with the Delta Plan within the statutory Delta.

1. What recommendations do you have for improving the proposed policy?
2. Is there a different approach or policy available to the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
3. Why is your approach or policy a better way for the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
4. In general terms, what would be the cost of your alternative approach or policy, and who would pay?

4. The Second Staff Draft of the Delta Plan, in Chapter 5, proposes a policy under which local or regional land use plans "shall not preclude" opportunities for ecosystem restoration, habitat creation, channel modification for ecosystem benefit, or increased connectivity between water and land; or direct such uses away from their most effective locations. [ER P6]

For purposes of today's workshop only, assume that the Council is inclined toward adopting this policy as part of its process for making determinations of consistency with the Delta Plan within the statutory Delta.

1. What recommendations do you have for improving the proposed policy?
2. Is there a different approach or policy available to the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
3. Why is your approach or policy a better way for the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
4. In general terms, what would be the cost of your alternative approach or policy, and who would pay?

Agenda Item 4C: Delta Ecosystem Restoration and Agriculture

1. In the Delta Reform Act of 2009, the Legislature identified a "Delta crisis," stated that "existing Delta policies are not sustainable," and articulated its intent to provide for sustainable management of the Delta ecosystem. [85001(a), (c)] Agriculture is the largest land use in the Delta, with approximately 400,000 acres of irrigated farm land primarily devoted to field crops and pasture (Sumner and Rosen-Molina 2011). From your perspective:

1. What is your vision of the future role of agriculture in a sustainable Delta ecosystem that achieves the coequal goals?
2. What are the top priorities for agriculture that the Council should consider in developing the Delta Plan?

3. What are opportunities to achieve ecosystem restoration benefits for the Delta that are consistent with sustainable agriculture?

2. The Second Staff draft of the Delta Plan, in Chapter 5, contains proposed policies [ER P1-P6] and recommendations [ER R1-R5] designed to achieve the Council's mandates for ecosystem restoration in the Delta.

For purposes of today's workshop only, assume that the Council is inclined toward adopting the policies and recommendations in the Second Staff draft Please identify your priorities among these proposals and respond to the following questions:

1. What recommendations do you have for improving the proposed policy (or recommendation)?
2. Is there a different approach or policy available to the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
3. Why is your approach or policy a better way for the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
4. In general terms, what would be the cost of your alternative approach or policy, and who would pay?

Agenda Item 8: Water Supply Reliability

1. The Second Staff Draft of the Delta Plan, in Chapter 4, proposes Regional Water self-sufficiency as a policy for meeting the coequal goals and reducing Delta diversions. The proposed policy would require water agencies within the study area of the Delta Plan to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (or similar plan) by 2015. The proposed policy identifies mandatory key elements for such plans, including:

- Planning for possible interruption of Delta water supply
- Water use efficiency
- Water recycling
- Sustainable water supply
- Use of currently non-potable groundwater
- Storm water capture and recharge
- Seawater desalination

For purposes of today's workshop only, assume that the Council is inclined toward adopting this policy as part of its process for making determinations of consistency with the Delta Plan within the statutory Delta.

1. What recommendations do you have for improving the proposed policy?
2. Is there a different approach or policy available to the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
3. What are the key objectives the Council must address and how would these be better achieved through a different approach or policy?

4. In general terms, what would be the cost of your alternative approach or policy, and who would pay?

2. The Second Staff Draft of the Delta Plan, in Chapter 4, proposes a recommendation that, in the event local agencies fail to sustainably manage their groundwater basins, the State Water Resources Control Board should begin to regulate surface water and ground water together as components of the same system on a balanced regional basis that prevents ground water overdraft. [WR R2]

For purposes of today's workshop only, assume that the Council is inclined toward adopting this recommendation.

1. What recommendations do you have for improving the proposed recommendation?
2. Is there a different approach or policy available to the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
3. Why is your approach or policy a better way for the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
4. In general terms, what would be the cost of your alternative approach or policy, and who would pay?

3. The Second Staff Draft of the Delta Plan, in Chapter 4, proposes a policy, similar to the federal government's, under which water users who impact the Delta (by receiving water diverted or exported from the Delta or Delta Watershed) shall report on water diversions and consumptive use through the State Board's eWRIMS, and shall participate in DWR's Water PIE. Reporting would include a full water balance, including production from all sources, system losses, changes in storage, and water use.

For purposes of today's workshop only, assume that the Council is inclined toward adopting this policy as part of its process for making determinations of consistency with the Delta Plan within the statutory Delta.

1. What recommendations do you have for improving the proposed recommendation?
2. Is there a different approach or policy available to the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
3. Why is your approach or policy a better way for the Council to achieve its statutory mandate?
4. In general terms, what would be the cost of your alternative approach or policy, and who would pay?